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June 5, 1995

JUN 5

Mr. William F. Caton Acting Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554

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Attention:

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ERIC FISHMAN*

Allocations Branch

Re:

MM Docket No.95-44

RM-8602

Fair Bluff, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Caton:

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of S.O.S. Broadcasting, are an original and four copies of its "Comments and Expression of Interest" in the above-referenced proceeding.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C.

Counsel for

S.O.S. Broadcasting

Enclosure

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BEFORE THE

Nederal Communications Commission

	WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554	
		JUN S 1995
In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)) MM	1 Docket No. 95-44
Table of Allotments,) RM	[-8602
FM Broadcast Stations)	
(Fair Bluff, North Carolina))	DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
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To: Chief, Allocations Branch

COMMENTS AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- S.O.S. Broadcasting ("S.O.S."), by its attorneys, hereby submits its Comments in response to the <u>Notice of Proposed Rule Making</u> in MM Docket No. 95-44, DA 95-725, released April 14, 1995 ("NPRM"). In support thereof, the following is stated:
- 1. The NPRM was issued in response to a petition for rulemaking filed by Atlantic Broadcasting Co., Inc. ("Atlantic"), licensee of WDAR-FM, Darlington, South Carolina. WDAR-FM currently operates with directional facilities on Channel 288C3. Atlantic requested that the Channel 287A allotment at Fair Bluff, North Carolina, be deleted, or in the alternative, that a significant site restriction be imposed, to accommodate omnidirectional operation by WDAR-FM from its existing transmitter site.
- 2. In response to Atlantic's petition for rulemaking, the <u>NPRM</u> proposes to delete Channel 287A at Fair Bluff, North Carolina, if no party expresses an interest in use of the channel during the comment period in this proceeding. In the alternative, the <u>NPRM</u> proposes to

impose a site restriction 12.7 kilometers (7.9 miles) northeast of Fair Bluff. From the restricted reference coordinates (34°21'22"N; 78°54'36"W), a Fair Bluff FM would be short-spaced to the presently licensed facilities of WYNA(FM), Tabor City, North Carolina, and WNMB(FM), North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The channels of operation of both stations have been modified in separate rulemakings, which when fully implemented should eliminate the Fair Bluff short-spacing.

- 3. S.O.S. hereby expresses its interest in filing an application for a construction permit for a new FM station on Channel 287A at Fair Bluff, North Carolina. In the event it is awarded a construction permit for a new FM station on Channel 287A at Fair Bluff, S.O.S. intends expeditiously to construct a new FM station there.
- 4. S.O.S. opposes the imposition of a 7.9 mile northeast site restriction on the Fair Bluff channel. Given the limited principal community contour coverage capability of a Class A FM station, such a site restriction could seriously impair the viability of the channel. Given the current general local regulatory difficulties in establishing transmitting tower sites, the site restriction proposed may make it extremely difficult. if not impossible, to locate an acceptable site.
- 5. In principle, the Commission prefers the establishment of new broadcast service over the enhancement of existing service. Andalusia, Alabama, 49 Fed. Reg. 32201 (1984). Atlantic has not shown that imposition of a severe site restriction on the Fair Bluff allotment is the only means of achieving omnidirectional operation for WDAR-FM. Nor has Atlantic shown that WDAR-FM's current coverage is inadequate. Accordingly, S.O.S. opposes the proposed site restriction on the Fair Bluff allotment because it may seriously hamper its ability to implement

Fair Bluff's first local FM service.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, S.O.S. urges the Commission to maintain the Channel 287A allotment at Fair Bluff, North Carolina, as that community's first local FM service. S.O.S. opposes the imposition of a site restriction on that channel. S.O.S. intends to apply for and construct a new FM station at Fair Bluff.

Respectfully submitted,

S.O.S. BROADCASTING

Marvin Rosenberg

Frank R. Jazzo

Its Attorneys

Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, P.L.C. 1300 N. 17th Street, 11th Floor Rosslyn, Virginia 22209 (703) 812-0400

June 5, 1995.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Nancy Evans, an employee of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, P.L.C., hereby certify that copies of the attached "COMMENTS AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" were filed with the Federal Communications Commission on June 5, 1995, and served on that same day by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

Ms. Leslie K. Shapiro*
Allocations Branch
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8308-G
2025 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Gary S. Smithwick, Esquire Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C. 1990 M Street, N.W. Suite 510 Washington, D.C. 20036 Counsel for Atlantic Broadcasting Co., Inc.

Mark J. Prak, Esquire Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1800 Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 Counsel for Great American Media, Inc.

*By Hand Delivery

Nancy Evans